

RON BARBER  
2ND DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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October 14, 2014

Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dr. Thomas Frieden  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
4770 Buford Hwy NE  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Directors Collins and Frieden:

I am writing to request additional information regarding your efforts to diagnose and contain the Ebola virus. I know that your agencies share my commitment to protect Arizonans and all Americans from this serious threat to public health.

It is imperative that the United States is aggressive in the fight against Ebola both abroad and at home. This not only requires containment of the disease, but demands that we work to expedite the development of improved diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for the Ebola virus. No other nation is better equipped to take on this critical work than ours.

We know that early diagnosis and treatment can improve the prognosis for patients who have contracted the Ebola virus. I understand there are many challenges in quickly and accurately detecting this virus in a potentially infected patient, with some Ebola patients testing negative within the first 72 hours. Your continuous efforts to improve the speed and accuracy of detection and diagnosis are vital and will help to save lives, particularly as new drugs are developed to treat the virus.

I respectfully request a report from your agencies on research that is currently being conducted to develop new Ebola detection methods, including those that might be used on pre-symptomatic patients.

I am confident that the U.S. can lead the way in the treatment and eradication of Ebola. Thank you for your work to protect our nation, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Barber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Barber  
Member of Congress